

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001898

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EUR/ERA, S/WCI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/17/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [IT](#) [EUN](#) [ICC](#) [MEPP](#)

SUBJECT: SUBJECT: ITALY SUPPORTS US VIEWS ON GAERC AGENDA;
FMS MAY DISCUSS ICC

REF: STATE 104199

Classified By: POL MINISTER COUNSELOR TOM COUNTRYMAN. REASON: 1.5 (B)(D)

ESDP

11. (C) MFA Director for EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Luigi Mattiolo told Poloff on May 12 that as the May 17 GAERC would be the first in which Ministers of Defense from all 25 Member States would participate, discussion of ESDP issues would likely generate lively debate, and conclusions indicative of the direction EU common security arrangements will take over the next few months. Mattiolo expected that the conclusions would include deployment goals for EU rapid response units. He expected initial units to be ready in 2005, and complete deployment capabilities by 2007.

12. (C) Mattiolo also expects that the FMs will prepare documents on the European Armaments Agency for consideration by the June European Council. Among the issues FMs will discuss is whether QMV would apply to Agency decisions, and cooperation with third party, particularly Non-EU NATO, countries. He said that Italy prefers a small "institutional profile" for the Agency.

13. (C) According to Mattiolo, there is emerging EU consensus for an EU military planning capability using existing structures and a small cell within SHAPE. The scope of EU planning would be strategic, not operational, in nature.

Western Balkans -----

14. (C) EU Institutional Affairs Director Michelle Quarone, and Balkans Affairs Director Andrea Orizio told poloff that the specific reftel points on Croatian ICTY would not be covered at the May 17 GAERC. However, Italy fully concurs that Zagreb must accelerate compliance with its commitments to the ICTY and return of refugees and displaced persons. Croatia's further integration with transatlantic institutions is conditional on such cooperation, they said.

15. (C) Quarone mentioned that CFSP High Representative Patten would address the FM's on the situation in Kosovo, substituting for SRSB Holkeri, who had been hospitalized for symptoms of fatigue in Strasbourg on May 13. Orizio said the FM's would also do a "stocktaking" of the Stabilization and Association Process for all Balkan countries.

European Neighborhood Policy/Russia -----

16. (C) Quarone said that the ENP strategy paper had been approved on May 12, not enough lead-time for a full discussion at the GAERC. Italy's view on the ENP concept was that it was a good tool for overall development assistance for eastern European countries. It must be underlined, however that the process was not a "shortcut" to membership, a notion mistakenly held by Ukraine and Moldova. Under the ENP, Russia would enjoy a "special partnership" with the EU given its longer and more robust relationship with Brussels. Mattiolo said that it was unlikely Transnistria would make the busy GAERC agenda, but that Italy fully agreed with USG views that Moscow must do more to comply with its OSCE Istanbul commitments. He said the EU would definitely underscore its concern with Putin at the May 21 Russia-EU Summit.

Cyprus/Turkey -----

17. (C) Quarone said that despite our shared disappointment with the referendum results, the US and EU must continue to support overall development in Cyprus. Accordingly, the EU will distribute as planned 249 million Euros, largely for aid north of the Green Line. FM's will likely recognize Ankara's measured response to the referendum results, which can only help Turkey's chances for an accession date at the December Council, averred Quarone.

ICC

18. (C) Mattiolo has heard rumors that discussion of UN Resolution 1487 (which states the ICC does not have jurisdiction over UN peacekeeping missions), while not on the formal agenda, may be a subject for discussion over lunch by the FMs and MODs. The upcoming vote in the UN to extend the resolution may be a vehicle for some countries to "send a message" on Iraq prison torture, even though 1487 does not apply to the current mission in Iraq. Italy is in favor of 1487 rollover, and will be "monitoring carefully" the opinions of its EU partners. Mattiolo promised poloff an assessment of the GAERC discussion following FM Frattini's return from Brussels.

MEPP

19. (C) According to Luca Ferrari, MFA Office Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, FMs will endorse the conclusions of the May 4 Quartet at the GAERC. There are on ongoing discussions on the European Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean and Middle East, but he did not believe they would be covered at the GAERC.

EU-Latin America and Caribbean Summit

110. (C) Andrea Sama', European Integration officer for EU-Latin American affairs, told us that the following would be discussed at the GAERC in preparation for the EU-LAC Summit which will be held in Guadalajara May 28:

- Objectives and goals for the Summit;

- Opening of negotiations for association agreements with Andean region countries and Central Am region countries.

111. (C) Sama' stated that the EU is ready and willing to get these agreements up and running but that specifics regarding certain conditions and timing need to be finalized. For example, the EU must decide whether to wait until the DOHA round is finished before completing the agreements; certain regional integration issues also remain to be agreed.

112. Sama' said that FMs would discuss social cohesion (which aims to ensure greater social participation in political and economic activity through social and fiscal policies), but no new funds or specific projects are currently being considered. He added that there may be mention of best practices, know-how and training exchanges but all under the current funding for Latin American development.

EU-Mercosur

113. (C) Sama' said that Mercosur would be discussed but will not be a priority issue at the GAERC. He reported that the last EU-Mercosur negotiations were held May 7 and 8 and that there will be another negotiating session at the ministerial level on May 27 in Guadalajara, one day prior to the LAC Summit. The goal is to iron out details in order to make some concrete announcements at the Summit. Sama' estimates that the negotiations should be successfully completed by fall 2004.

Visit Rome's Classified Website:

<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/rome/index.cf m>

SEMBLER

NNNN

2004ROME01898 - Classification: CONFIDENTIAL